

Claims

1. A method for selectively destroying blood vessels contained in the dermis at depths of up to one millimeter comprising:

aiming a laser so that light from said laser impinges upon the dermis, said light having a wavelength between 700 nm and 1100 nm; and

pulsing said laser such that each pulse delivers a fluence at the skin surface of between 5 joules per square centimeter and 50 joules per square centimeter.

2. The method of claim 1 further defined by said pulse having a pulse duration of between 0.2 millisecond and 20 milliseconds.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein aiming the laser includes a step of selecting the laser such that the laser emits light having the characteristics of an aluminum gallium arsenide semiconductor diode laser.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein said light impinges upon an area of between 0.1 square centimeter and 10 square centimeters.

5. The method of claim 2 further defined by said laser delivering one pulse.

6. The method of claim 4 further defined by repositioning said laser such that said light impinges upon untreated areas.

~~1~~ 7. A method for the treatment of psoriasis in human beings comprising the steps of:

aiming a laser so that the output of said laser impinges upon a psoriatic plaque, said output having a wavelength of between 700 nm and 1100 nm; and

delivering one or more laser pulses having a fluence per pulse at the skin surface of between 5 joules per square centimeter and 50 joules per square centimeter, each of said pulses further having a pulse duration of between 0.2 millisecond and 20 milliseconds,

whereby the blood vessels underlying said psoriatic plaque are selectively destroyed.

~~2~~ 8. The method of claim ~~1~~ wherein aiming the laser includes a step of selecting the laser such that the laser emits light having the characteristics of an aluminum gallium arsenide semiconductor diode laser.

~~3~~ 9. The method of claim ~~1~~ wherein said laser pulses impinge upon an area of between 0.1 square centimeter and 10 square centimeters.

~~4~~ 10. The method of claim ~~1~~ further defined by said laser delivering one pulse.

~~5~~ 11. The method of claim ~~1~~ further defined by repositioning said laser such that said output impinges upon untreated areas of said plaque until the entire area of said plaque has been treated.

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